
Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness

January 30, 2008 Point In Time Report



www.helpingtohouse.org

Presented by:
The HMIS Quality Management Council
A Subcommittee of the Continuum of Care

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Homelessness in Vermont

Since 2003, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has required all Continuum of Cares (CoC) to collect local data on unsheltered homeless persons. Beginning in 2007, all CoCs were required to demonstrate that their unsheltered counts comply with the HUD standards for counting sheltered and unsheltered persons and conduct their point-in-time count during the last seven days of January (HUD 2004).

On January 30, 2008, the Vermont Coalition to End Homeless (VCEH) and the Chittenden Homeless Alliance (CHA) engaged in the third annual one day count of homeless individuals and families in their communities. These community counts were aggregated and compiled to create a picture on the extent of homelessness in Vermont for 2008. The numbers represented in this report are aggregated and presented in statewide charts, county charts, and Agency of Human Services (AHS) district charts.

Participating in this year's count were homeless community service agencies, state agency staff, and volunteers who canvassed communities across Vermont to gather information about homeless individuals, families, and children. Volunteers administered a brief survey to collect the information required by HUD; but more importantly, to collect information that would help stakeholders better understand the state of the homeless in Vermont and to provide services and resources that will better meet consumer needs.



Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness

The Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness (VCEH) is the Vermont Balance of State Continuum of Care. The Mission of the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness is to:

End Homelessness in Vermont through sharing information, developing resources, and providing a forum for decision making and to promote decent, safe, fair, affordable housing for all.

To achieve this mission, the VCEH will:

- ◆ Create a network of organizations, service providers, advocates, consumers, concerned citizens and policy makers committed to ending homelessness.
- ◆ Foster communication and building local Continuums and developing collaborative partnerships.

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- ◆ Ensure that all Vermonters, particularly low and moderate income persons, people with disabilities, homeless people, elders, families with children and others, have safe, adequate, physically accessible and affordable housing.
- ◆ Encourage resident participation and control in their housing.
- ◆ Advocate for the preservation of existing housing, protection of renters, and the development of new, perpetually affordable low and moderate income housing.
- ◆ Promote the recognition of housing as a basic right for all Vermonters through education of the public and elected officials.
- ◆ Act as a catalyst in the exploration and development of innovative means of preserving and increasing Vermont's affordable housing stock.

For additional information regarding meetings, membership and the work we do, visit: www.helpingtohouse.org



Understanding the Vermont Data Collection Tool

The Vermont Point In Time (PIT) data collection tool was designed to provide the maximum amount of information, in a confidential and uniform manner.

In 2006, the data collection tool was created with input from the CoC. It was subsequently disseminated and administered on January 26, 2006. The initial survey was a positive trial run and proved the tool could be successful. The “check box” format made completing the survey quick and easy.

In 2007, feedback meetings were held by the CoC and CHA. These meetings informed and engaged all stakeholders. The feedback was used to enhance what data would be collected and the definitions that would be used. Overall, the design of the tool remained the same. Stakeholders became increasingly aware of the tool and the report capacity it could provide. Agencies and organizations began requesting more Point-In-Time trainings. A small group of CoC members trained agencies, organizations, and volunteers on the definitions, collection process, and the use of the data collected. The 2007 data produced was greatly improved. Data reports were prepared for the CoC and are available on the CoC and New England Regional Homeless Management Information System websites.

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In 2008, fewer refinements were made to the tool, and it was disseminated through the CoC and CHA for use on January 30th. The results of the count are contained in this report and will be made available on the websites www.helpingtohouse.org or www.nerhmis.org.

There are several key considerations to take into account when evaluating the data collection tool and the reports that follow.

1. A unique identifier is used to maintain strict privacy and confidentiality. This enables an unduplicated count.
2. Additional information collected includes: housing situation, housing needs, general information about the client, and the resources/services the clients need and/or cannot access.
3. Definition of terms are provided on the right hand side of the form to assist volunteers in understanding the information being collected.
4. The Statewide and County reports *do not* always total from report to report. The reason for this is that any one person counted in two different counties may show up in each county's report, but will only show up as one person in the statewide reports.
5. The PIT count takes place once each year and provides a snap shot of that one day. Vermont's seasons may play a roll in the snap shot. If the weather is severely cold, friends and relatives may open their home. For some it may be a couch, for others there may be an overflow shelter to provide shelter for that one time.
6. Each year the number of community partners who have participated in the PIT has increased. It is expected that this trend will continue as partners realize the value of the data being collected.



7. Collecting accurate data on the homeless is challenging. Each year we have conducted the PIT, we have gained experience, broadened the organizations participating, improved the data collection tool and the quality of the final reports.

8. The Data will identify and calculate the needs of persons who are homeless and help in deciding how resources can be allocated. Advocates and policy makers across the state can use these reports to help with ongoing efforts to reduce homelessness in Vermont.

2008 Data Collection Tool

[illegible]

Information collected on this form will be treated confidentially per HUD Data Standards.

Updated: April 30, 2008

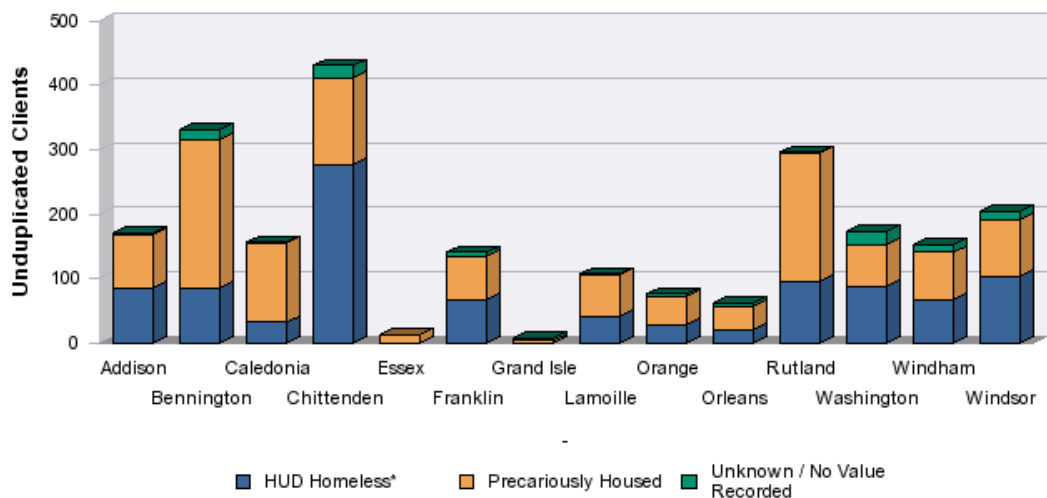
<p>* = THE FOLLOWING DEFINITIONS</p> <p>Ethnicity</p> <p>H = Hispanic origin N = Not of Hispanic origin</p> <p>Primary Race</p> <p>1 = Black 2 = White 3 = Asian or Pacific Islander 4 = American Indian</p> <p>Type of Homelessness:</p> <p>H = HUD Defined Homeless is an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, AND an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is: a) a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter; b) an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or c) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.</p> <p>C = HUD Defined Chronically Homeless is an unaccompanied homeless individual with a continuing condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more OR has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years.</p> <p>P = Precariously Housed includes "couch surfing" and "boobing up" for non-HUD funded programs.</p> <p>Transitional Housing = Includes transitional housing for 6-24 months.</p> <p>Unsheltered = Living in places not meant for human habitation.</p> <p>Housing Needed</p> <p>E = Emergency Shelter T = Transitional Housing P = Permanent Supportive Housing H = Safe Haven (for SMI persons only) O = Other Permanent Housing</p> <p>Former Institution = Any homeless person housed in an institution (e.g. jail, hospital) immediately prior to becoming homeless.</p> <p>Foster Care = If person is now or has ever been in foster care.</p> <p>Bridge Money = Funds that could be used for one-time short-term assistance that would prevent homelessness.</p>

State of Vermont Point in Time Homeless Survey Summary by County

January 30, 2008

	Totals	HUD Homeless*	Precariously Housed
Persons Counted (singles and individuals in families)	2,507	1,104	1,290
Persons Counted Unduplicated (singles and individuals in families)	2,249	982	1,215
Total Families	430	158	259
Total Persons in Families	1,049	399	631
Total Individuals NOT in Families Unduplicated	1,237	593	598

	Total Persons Recorded	%	Totals Persons Unduplicated	%	HUD Homeless Unduplicated*	Chronic Homeless Unduplicated	Precariously Housed Unduplicated
Addison	189	7.4%	162	7.1%	87	30	81
Bennington	361	14.2%	327	14.3%	86	11	229
Caledonia	168	6.6%	155	6.8%	35	14	122
Chittenden	473	18.6%	424	18.6%	278	66	134
Essex	12	0.5%	12	0.5%	0		12
Franklin	146	5.7%	141	6.2%	69	10	67
Grand Isle	8	0.3%	8	0.4%	0		4
Lamoille	113	4.4%	105	4.6%	42	10	63
Orange	77	3.0%	75	3.3%	28	9	45
Orleans	66	2.6%	61	2.7%	21	4	37
Rutland	332	13.0%	291	12.8%	98	9	199
Washington	179	7.0%	167	7.3%	87	36	66
Windham	196	7.7%	152	6.7%	71	30	74
Windsor	229	9.0%	201	8.8%	104	12	89



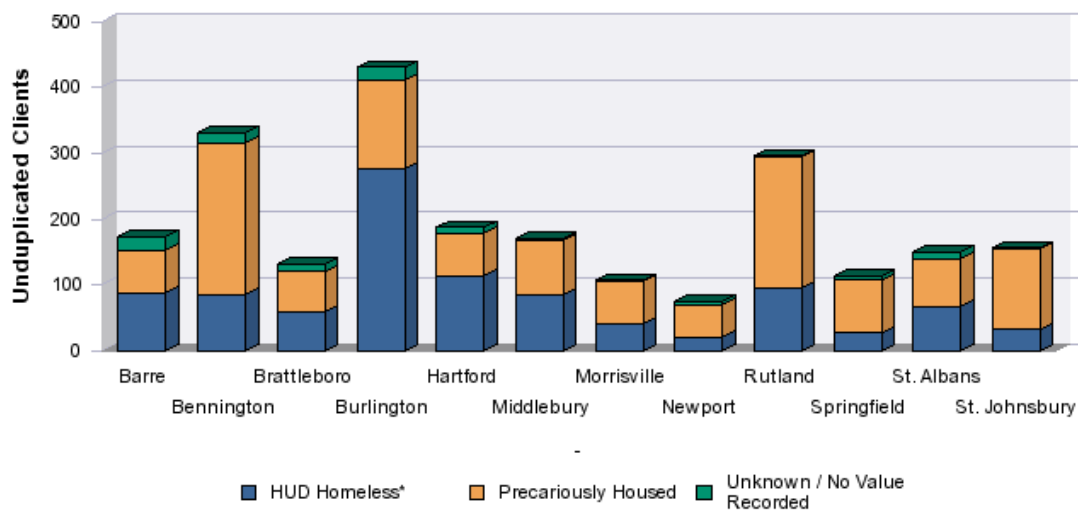
- HUD Homeless includes Chronically Homeless. Precariously Housed includes people doubled-up, couch surfers etc.
- Unknown/Not Recorded are not shown separately, but are included in Totals. All client counts are unduplicated unless otherwise noted.
- Statewide Unduplicated counts may not equal the sum of County or AHS District Totals. For example, if a person with the same unique identifier was counted by an agency in Addison County and by an agency in Chittenden County, statewide unduplicated counts will count this person as one, and breakdowns for Addison County and Chittenden County will each count this person.

State of Vermont Point in Time Homeless Survey Summary by Agency of Human Services (AHS) District

January 30, 2008

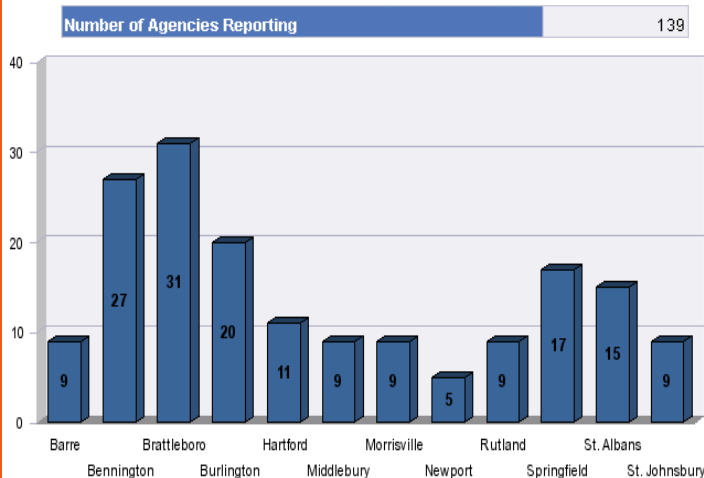
	Totals	HUD Homeless*	Precariously Housed
Persons Counted (singles and individuals in families)	2,507	1,104	1,290
Persons Counted Unduplicated (singles and individuals in families)	2,249	982	1,215
Total Families	430	158	259
Total Persons in Families	1,049	399	631
Total Individuals NOT in Families Unduplicated	1,237	593	598

AHS District	Total Persons Recorded	%	Totals Persons Unduplicated	%	HUD Homeless Unduplicated*	Chronic Homeless Unduplicated	Precariously Housed Unduplicated
Barre	179	7.0%	167	7.3%	87	36	66
Bennington	361	14.2%	327	14.4%	86	11	229
Brattleboro	163	6.4%	131	5.8%	62	30	61
Burlington	473	18.6%	424	18.7%	278	66	134
Hartford	191	7.5%	181	8.0%	113	20	65
Middlebury	189	7.4%	162	7.1%	87	30	81
Morrisville	113	4.4%	105	4.6%	42	10	63
Newport	78	3.1%	73	3.2%	21	4	49
Rutland	332	13.0%	291	12.8%	98	9	199
Springfield	148	5.8%	110	4.8%	28	1	80
St. Albans	154	6.0%	147	6.5%	69	10	71
St. Johnsbury	168	6.6%	155	6.8%	35	14	122

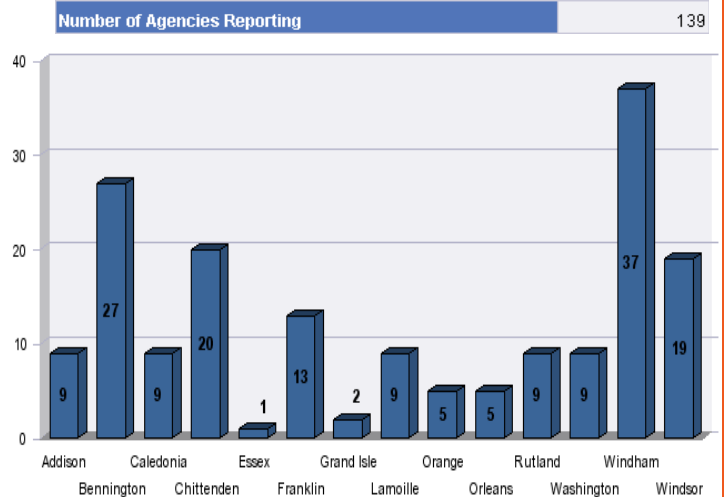


- HUD Homeless includes Chronically Homeless. Precariously Housed includes people doubled-up, couch surfers etc.
- Unknown/Not Recorded are not shown separately, but are included in Totals. All client counts are unduplicated unless otherwise noted.
- Statewide Unduplicated counts may not equal the sum of County or AHS District Totals. For example, if a person with the same unique identifier was counted by an agency in Addison County and by an agency in Chittenden County, statewide unduplicated counts will count this person as one, and breakdowns for Addison County and Chittenden County will each count this person.

Number of Agencies Participating by AHS District



Number of Agencies Participating by County



- HUD Homeless includes Chronically Homeless. Precariously Housed includes people doubled-up, couch surfers etc.
- Unknown/Not Recorded are not shown separately, but are included in Totals. All client counts are unduplicated unless otherwise noted.
- Statewide Unduplicated counts may not equal the sum of County or AHS District Totals. For example, if a person with the same unique identifier was counted by an agency in Addison County and by an agency in Chittenden County, statewide unduplicated counts will count this person as one, and breakdowns

Data Report Request Process

Requests for Data Reports are welcomed by the HMIS Quality Management Council and the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness.

To obtain data reports a request form must be completed with the description of the report request, signed and submitted to Data Remedies, llc the CoC HMIS Administrator. Once the request is received, the CoC HMIS Administrator will present to the HMIS Quality Management Council: a) the request; b) the length of time to complete the request; c) any associated costs; and c) any concerns or issues regarding the request.



Once this information has been evaluated, the Quality Management Council Coordinator will notify the requestor regarding the outcome, timeframe and cost. Once all parties agree, the report will be generated and the Quality Management Council Coordinator will forward the final report to the requestor.

2008 Data Report Request Form

Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness
HMIS Quality Management Council

Data Report Request Form

Requests can be forwarded to Data Remedies, llc, 10 Benning Street, Box 211, West Lebanon, NH 03784
or emailed rrankin@dataremedies.com.

Organization: _____

Contact: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Please describe specifically what information you would like included in the data report:

Please describe specifically how this information will be used by your organization:

The Vermont Balance of State Continuum of Care retains ownership of all data related to the Vermont Point in Time Count and releases such information only under conditions deemed appropriate by the Steering Committee and HMIS Quality Management Council.

By signing below you certify that:

- 1) any reports produced utilizing this information, for publication or distribution to third parties will not include any individually identifiable information.
- 2) there are appropriate safeguards including physical and electronic security of this information.
- 3) there will be no attempt to identify or contact the individuals who are the subject of this information.
- 4) you will report to the HMIS Quality Management Council any use or disclosure of information or protected health information that is not permitted by this request.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

For Internal use only: Date Received: _____ Date Sent to Cmt: _____
Approved by Cmt: [☐]Yes [☐]No Date: _____ Estimated Completion Date: _____
Modifications Required: [☐]Yes [☐]No If yes, list: _____
Is there a fee: [☐]Yes [☐]No If yes, how much: \$ _____ Organization Contact Notified: [☐]Yes [☐]No

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the difference between: HUD Defined Homeless; Chronically homeless; and Precariously Housed?

A. The definitions provided on the data collection tool are:

HUD Defined Homeless is an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; AND an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is: a) a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter; b) an institution that provides a temporary resident for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or c) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

Chronically Homeless is an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more OR has had a least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years.

Precariously Housed includes “couch surfing” and “doubling up” for non-HUD funded programs.

Q. What does “un-duplicated” mean?

A. Many times an individual will be reported by two or more organizations, so a unique identifier is created from the first 10 fields of the data collection tool. This unique identifier provides a way to report the individual once.

Please note: In certain reports Statewide Unduplicated counts may not equal the sum of County or AHS District totals. For example, if a person with the same unique identifier is recorded by an agency in Addison County and by an agency in Chittenden County, statewide unduplicated counts will report this person as one, and breakdowns for Addison County and for Chittenden County will each count this person separately.

Q. How was the participant data collected?

A. The data collection tool, included in this report, was provided to each community. The community members engaged a number of partners who surveyed individuals and families who were receiving homeless services and/or were know or suspected to be homeless on the day of the survey.

Q. Who collected the data?

A. Through the CoC, data collection tools were distributed to the Regional CoC Contacts. The Contacts then distributed the surveys to community volunteers and partners who canvassed their community to complete the survey.

Q. Can I request a special data report from this data set?

A. Yes. The process is published in this report and is also available online at: www.helpingtohouse.org.

Vermont Coalition *to* End Homelessness

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Web: www.helpingtohouse.org

